

THE ENMITY BETWEEN SATAN AND MANKIND

The reason behind the enmity, its history, and its severity

The enmity between humans and Satan is rooted in an incident that took place a long time ago. One must go back to the day that Allah formed Adam, before He breathed His spirit into him. Satan went around him and said, “[Adam,] if you are given mastery over me, I will surely disobey you. And if I am given mastery over you, I will destroy you.”

It is recorded in *Sahih Muslim* on the authority of Anas that the Prophet (peace be upon him) said,

لَمَّا صَوَّرَ اللَّهُ آدَمَ فِي الْجَنَّةِ تَرَكَهُ مَا شَاءَ اللَّهُ أَنْ يَتْرُكَهُ فَجَعَلَ إِبْلِيسُ
يُطِيفُ بِهِ يَنْظُرُ مَا هُوَ فَلَمَّا رَأَهُ أَجْوَفَ عَرَفَ أَنَّهُ خُلِقَ خَلْقًا لَا يَتَمَالَكُ

“When Allah fashioned Adam in Paradise, He left him as long as He wished to leave him. Then Iblees roamed around him to see what he actually was and when Iblees found him to be hollow from within, he recognized that the new creature had been created with a disposition such that it would not have control over itself.”

When Allah breathed into Adam his spirit, he ordered the angels to prostrate to Adam. Iblees used to worship Allah with the angels so the order was also addressed to him. But Iblees considered himself too great and, out of pride, he refused to prostrate to Adam. He cried, “I am better than him. You created me from fire and you created him from clay.”

Then when Adam opened his eyes he found a great and generous gesture: the angels bowing down to him. But he also found a great enemy waiting for him that would try to lead him and his descendants to destruction and misguidance.

Satan was cast out of paradise due to his pride but he took a promise from Allah to be left alive until the day of judgment.

قَالَ أَنْظِرْنِي إِلَى يَوْمِ يُبْعَثُونَ ﴿١٤﴾ قَالَ إِنَّكَ مِنَ الْمُنظَرِينَ

“He said: Reprieve me till the day when they are raised (from the dead). He said: Lo! You are of those who are reprieved” (*al-Araaf* 14-15). Then the accursed one made a promise and vow to himself that he would mislead the offspring of Adam and plot against them.

قَالَ فَبِمَا أَغْوَيْتَنِي لَأَقْعُدَنَّ لَهُمْ صِرَاطَكَ الْمُسْتَقِيمَ ﴿١٥﴾ ثُمَّ لَأَنْتَبِهَهُمْ مِنْ بَيْنِ أَيْدِيهِمْ وَمِنْ خَلْفِهِمْ وَعَنْ أَيْمَانِهِمْ وَعَنْ شَمَائِلِهِمْ وَلَا تَجِدُ أَكْثَرَهُمْ شَاكِرِينَ

“He said: Now, because you have sent me astray, verily I shall lurk in ambush for them on your Right Path. Then I shall come upon them from before them and from behind them and from their right and from their left, and you will not find most of them beholden (to You) (*al-Araaf* 15-16). This latter statement of his shows how great will be his struggle to mislead the offspring of Adam. He will take every path he can against them, on their right, left, in front of them and behind them. He will attack them from every direction. Al-Zamakhshari said in his commentary to this verse, “He will come to them from all four directions as the enemy usually does, such as his ‘sneaking whispers’ to them. He will entice them in every way that he can. As in the [Quranic] statement, ‘And excite any of them whom you can with your voice, and urge your horse and foot against them, and be a partner in their wealth and

children, and promise them. Satan promises them only to deceive' (*al-Israa* 64).”

Allah s warning to us concerning Satan

The Quran warns us at length about Satan since he is such a great test for humanity. Allah warns humans about Satan’s misguidance and his desire to mislead people. Allah says,

يَبْنَىْ عَادَمَ لَا يَفْتِنَنَّكُمْ الشَّيْطَانُ

“O Children of Adam! Let not Satan seduce you...” (*al-Araaf* 27). And,

إِنَّ الشَّيْطَانَ لَكُمْ عَدُوٌّ فَاتَّخِذُوهُ عَدُوًّا

“Lo! The devil is an enemy for you, so treat him as an enemy” (*Faatir* 6). Again,

وَمَنْ يَتَّخِذِ الشَّيْطَانَ وَلِيًّا مِّنْ دُونِ اللَّهِ فَقَدْ خَسِرَ

خُسْرًا نَّامُوبِيْنَا

“Whoever chooses Satan for an ally instead of Allah is verily a loser and his loss is manifest” (*al-Nisaa* 119).

The enmity from Satan will not change or vanish. This is because Satan sees the father of the humans, Adam, as the cause for his being expelled from paradise and the reason behind Allah’s curse upon Satan. There is no doubt that he will seek revenge from Adam and his offspring.